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S-NA-New York

STATEN ISLAND ASSOC<sup>I</sup>. OF ARTS  
AND SCIENCES  
PROCEEDINGS---MEMORIAL NO.

1907



S - N A W

15.850

# PROCEEDINGS

OF THE

## STATEN ISLAND ASSOCIATION OF ARTS AND SCIENCES

[Late Natural Science Association of Staten Island]

---

### MEMORIAL NUMBER

---

COMMEMORATING THE CELEBRATION

OF THE

### TWENTY-FIFTH ANNIVERSARY

of the organization of the

Natural Science Association of Staten Island

---

New Brighton, Borough of Richmond, City of New York

[Issued March 15, 1907]

OFFICERS  
OF THE  
NATURAL SCIENCE ASSOCIATION OF STATEN ISLAND  
1881—1882.

*President*—Sanderson Smith.  
*Recording and Financial Secretary*—Charles William Leng.  
*Corresponding Secretary*—Arthur Hollick.  
*Curator*—William Thompson Davis.

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OFFICERS  
OF THE  
STATEN ISLAND ASSOCIATION OF ARTS AND SCIENCES  
1906—1907.

*President*—Howard Randolph Bayne.  
*First Vice-President*—William Thompson Davis.  
*Second Vice-President*—William Hinman Mitchill.  
*Recording Secretary*—Arthur Hollick.  
*Corresponding Secretary*—Philip Dowell.  
*Treasurer*—John Blake Hillyer.  
*Honorary Curator*—Charles Arthur Ingalls.

# **PROCEEDINGS**

OF THE

## **STATEN ISLAND ASSOCIATION OF ARTS AND SCIENCES**

[Late Natural Science Association of Staten Island]

### **MEMORIAL NUMBER**

---

#### **CELEBRATION**

OF THE

#### **TWENTY-FIFTH ANNIVERSARY**

of the organization, on Saturday, November 12th, 1881,

of the

### **Natural Science Association of Staten Island**

---

**HOTEL CASTLETON**

New Brighton, Borough of Richmond, City of New York,

Monday, November 12th, 1906.



# PROCEEDINGS

in connection with the 25th Anniversary of the organization  
of the

Natural Science Association of Staten Island

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## INTRODUCTION

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### RESOLUTION ADOPTED BY THE ASSOCIATION, MAY 19, 1906

"Mr. J. Blake Hillyer referred to the fact that the 12th of next November would be the 25th anniversary of the organization of the Natural Science Association of Staten Island and suggested that the event should be recognized in some manner suitable to the occasion.

*Resolved*, that the Board of Trustees be requested to consider and to formulate a program to celebrate and commemorate the twenty-fifth anniversary of the organization, on November 12th, 1881, of the Natural Science Association of Staten Island".

[Abstract from the minutes of the annual meeting of the Association, held on Saturday, May 10, 1906]

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### REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

"Items of business referred to the Committee by the Board of Trustees were presented by the Secretary and acted upon as follows:

\* \* \* \*

*Voted*: that the following program be suggested for the celebration and commemoration of the 25th anniversary of the organization, on November 12th, 1881, of the Natural Science Association of Staten Island:

1st—A subscription dinner on November 12th, 1906, to celebrate the completion of twenty-five years of organized scientific work on Staten Island, to which all members of the Staten Island Association of Arts and Sciences shall be invited to subscribe, and to which a limited number of guests of the Association shall be invited to attend.

2nd—The inauguration of a new, additional, series of publications, to be designated "Memoirs of the Staten Island Association of Arts and Sciences," designed to give, in time, as complete a presentation as possible of the geology, botany, zoology, archeology and antiquities of Staten Island in a uniform style,—each number of the series to deal with one subject only, and to be a complete monograph in itself,—the title of the series to be followed by the legend "Established 1906, to commemorate the organization, on November 12th, 1881, of the Natural Science Association of Staten Island," or some legend to the above effect."

[Abstract from the minutes of the meeting of the Executive Committee, held on Tuesday, July 17th, 1906]

### ACTION OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES

"The report of the Executive Committee was submitted in the form of the minutes of the meeting held by the Committee on July 17th, 1906.

*Voted:* that the report of the Executive Committee on the proposed celebration and commemoration of the 25th anniversary of the organization of the Natural Science Association of Staten Island be received, and approved in regard to its general plan and scope; and that the President be requested to appoint the chairman of a committee of arrangements, who together with the President shall select such additional members as they may deem advisable to constitute the committee, whose duty it shall be to arrange all details for the proposed dinner, on November 12th, in general accordance with the suggestions submitted by the Executive Committee.

\* \* \* \*

*Voted:* that the suggestions of the Executive Committee in relation to the establishment of a new, additional series of publications be referred to the Publication Committee for consideration and report."

[Abstract from the minutes of the stated meeting of the Board of Trustees, held on Saturday, October 6th, 1906]

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE COMMITTEE OF ARRANGEMENTS

STATEN ISLAND ASSOCIATION OF ARTS AND SCIENCES

(Late Natural Science Association of Staten Island.)

ANNOUNCEMENT.

At the annual meeting of the Association, held on May 19th, 1906, the following resolution was adopted :

*Resolved*, that the Board of Trustees be directed to consider and to formulate a program to celebrate and commemorate the 25th anniversary of the organization, on November 12th, 1881, of the Natural Science Association of Staten Island.

In accordance with the above resolution the Board appointed a special committee on the subject, and this committee has arranged for a *subscription dinner, at the Hotel Castleton, on Monday evening, November 12th*, to which all members of the Association are hereby invited and urged to attend.

The subscription is \$2.50, and guests' tickets may be obtained at the same price.

Members are requested to bring as guests any friends who may be interested in the occasion, and they are specially requested to invite as guests any lady members of their families.

A number of distinguished persons, prominent as public officials, and in the arts and sciences, have been invited to be present and to deliver appropriate addresses.

This will be a unique event for Staten Island, celebrating and commemorating as it will the successful completion of a quarter of a century of organized scientific work in the community, and it is hoped that all will unite in making it a success.

If you intend to be present kindly fill in and return the enclosed slip in the accompanying stamped and addressed envelope, not later than November 5th, making check payable to J. Blake Hillyer, Treas.

ARTHUR HOLICK, *Chairman*,  
HOWARD R. BAYNE,  
DANIEL DELEHANTY,  
WILLIAM H. MITCHILL,  
DARWIN L. BARDWELL,  
J. BLAKE HILLYER,

Committee.

## INVITED GUESTS

**HON. GEORGE B. McCLELLAN,**  
Mayor of the City of New York.

**HON. HERMAN A. METZ,**  
Comptroller of the City of New York.

**HON. PATRICK F. MC. GOWAN,**  
President of the Board of Aldermen.

**HON. GEORGE CROMWELL,**  
President of the Borough of Richmond.

**HON. JOHN F. AHEARN,**  
President of the Borough of Manhattan.

**HON. LOUIS F. HAFFEN,**  
President of the Borough of the Bronx.

**HON. BIRD S. COLER,**  
President of the Borough of Brooklyn.

**HON. JOSEPH BERMEL,**  
President of the Borough of Queens.

**DR. JOHN S. BILLINGS,**  
Director of the New York Public Library.

**MR. WILLIAM T. HORNADAY,**  
Director of the New York Zoological Park.

**DR. NATHANIEL L. BRITTON,**  
Director of the New York Botanical Garden.

**SIR CASPAR PURDON CLARKE,**  
Director of the Metropolitan Museum of Art.

**DR. HERMON C. BUMPUS,**  
Director of the American Museum of Natural History.

**MR. FRANKLIN W. HOOPER,**  
Director of the Brooklyn Institute of Arts and Sciences.

**MR. SANDERSON SMITH,**  
The first President of the Natural Science Association of Staten Island, 1881—1882.

**MR. WALTER C. KERR,**  
President of the Natural Science Association of Staten Island 1892—1899.

## MEMBERS AND GUESTS PRESENT

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Rev. Arthur H. Allen	J. Blake Hillyer
Howard R. Bayne	Dr. Arthur Hollick
Mrs. Howard R. Bayne	Mrs. Arthur Hollick
Nils Bergquist	Miss Grace Hollick
Willard A. Boyd	Charles Humphrey
Mrs. Willard A. Boyd	Mrs. Charles Humphrey
Thomas A. Braniff	George S. Humphrey
Dr. Nathaniel L. Britton	Mrs. George S. Humphrey
Mrs. Nathaniel L. Britton	William F. Hunt
Orrin L. Brodie	Charles A. Ingalls
Mrs. Orrin L. Brodie	Mrs. Charles A. Ingalls
Mrs. Agnes Brodie	Algernon K. Johnston
Dr. Hermon C. Bumpus	Frederick A. Johnston
Rev. Charles S. Burch	William A. Johnston
James Chapin	Thomas F. Kane
William T. Davis	Watson F. Keeney
Capt. Daniel Delehanty	Walter C. Kerr
Mrs. Daniel Delehanty	Winfield R. Koller
Miss Delehanty	James P. Lough
Miss Bertha Delehanty	William Mac Donald
John DeMorgan	Mrs. William Mac Donald
Lewis H. Denton	John Martin
Mrs. Lewis H. Denton	Mrs. John Martin
Timothy F. Donovan	Hon. Herman A. Metz
Stafford C. Edwards	William H. Mitchill
Mrs. Stafford C. Edwards	Mrs. William H. Mitchill
Thomas A. Fulton	John Rader
Mrs. Thomas A. Fulton	Alanson Skinner
Oliver P. Geoffroy	Frederick W. Skinner
John F. Gould	Harry F. Towle
Mrs. John F. Gould	Louis L. Tribus
Samuel A. Henszey	Mrs. Louis L. Tribus

## LETTERS AND TELEGRAMS

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**CITY OF NEW YORK,  
OFFICE OF THE MAYOR.**

October 22d, 1906.

**Mr. Howard R. Bayne,  
67 Wall Street, City.**

Dear Sir:—The Mayor directs me to acknowledge your letter of October 17, inviting him to attend the twenty-fifth anniversary dinner of the Staten Island Association of Arts and Sciences, at the Hotel Castleton, on the evening of Monday, November 12, and to express his regret that owing to the demands on his time, it will be impossible to accept.

His Honor further instructs me to thank you for your thoughtfulness.

Respectfully,  
**William A. Willis, Executive Secretary.**

---

**DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE,  
City of New York.**

**Herman A. Metz, Comptroller.**

October 18, 1906.

**Mr. Howard R. Bayne,  
President, Staten Island Association  
of Arts and Sciences.**

Dear Sir:—I beg to acknowledge receipt of your invitation on behalf of the Staten Island Association of Arts and Sciences, to attend its 25th anniversary dinner on the evening of November 12th, and to say that if it be possible for me to do so I shall be very glad to be present. Thanking you for this courtesy, I am,

Yours very truly,  
**H. A. Metz.**

---

**The City of New York  
Office of the  
PRESIDENT OF THE BOARD OF ALDERMEN  
City Hall**

October 29, 1906.

**Dr. Arthur Hollick,  
Chairman Committee of Arrangements,  
New Brighton, New York.**

Dear Sir:—Please accept my thanks for your courteous invitation to attend the dinner of the Staten Island Association of Arts and Sciences,

to be given on the evening of the 12th instant in commemoration of the 25th anniversary of its organization, and I assure you it would afford me great pleasure to accept the same, but—as I have written to Superintendent Bardwell that I had already made an engagement for that evening which it will probably be impossible for me to forego—I regret very much that I am unable to accept your courteous invitation.

Very truly yours,  
P. F. McGowan.

## OFFICE OF THE

## PRESIDENT OF THE BOROUGH OF RICHMOND

November 8, 1906.

Dr. Arthur Hollick,

New Brighton, N. Y.

My dear Doctor Hollick:—I beg that you will pardon me for not having responded earlier to the very kind invitation of the Staten Island Association of Arts and Sciences to be present and to speak at the dinner on Monday night next in celebration of the 25th anniversary of the founding of the original society. My excuse for not having replied before is that during the last two weeks I have been exceedingly busy and have had time to attend to only the most urgent official business.

It is with very sincere regret that I find myself unable to accept the kind invitation of the Association because of an engagement made many weeks ago from which I cannot get released, although I endeavored to do so yesterday in order that I might attend your dinner. I am very sorry about it because, as you know, I take a very great interest in the Association and have great hopes for its large expansion and usefulness.

With very sincere regret that I cannot be with you on Monday night, but with best wishes for the great success of the dinner, I remain,

Yours very sincerely,  
George Cromwell.

City of New York  
Office of  
THE PRESIDENT OF THE BOROUGH OF MANHATTAN  
City Hall

Oct. 29th, 1906.

Arthur Hollick, Esq.,

Staten Island Association of Arts and Sciences,  
New Brighton, Staten Island, N. Y.

Dear Sir:—I have your kind invitation to be present at the dinner at

the Hotel Castleton, on the evening of November 12th, and beg you to accept my best thanks for your courtesy and remembrance. I shall make every effort to attend at that time.

Yours very truly,  
John F. Ahearn.

The City of New York.  
Office of the  
**PRESIDENT OF THE BOROUGH OF THE BRONX,**  
Municipal Building, Crotona Park.

Louis F. Haffen, President.

New York, Oct. 29th, 1906.

Dr. Arthur Hollick,  
Chairman, Committee of Arrangements,  
Hotel Castleton, St. George, S. I., City.

Dear Sir:—I beg to acknowledge receipt of your invitation to be one of the guests at the dinner of the Staten Island Association of Arts and Sciences, to be held at Hotel Castleton, St. George, Staten Island, on the evening of the 12th day of November next, at 7 o'clock, for which please accept my thanks.

I regret very much my inability to be present, but it is absolutely impossible for me to reach Staten Island on said night after attending to other engagements I have for said evening.

Yours truly,  
Louis F. Haffen.

[TELEGRAM]

Brooklyn, N. Y., November 12, 1906.

Dr. Arthur Hollick, Chairman,  
Committee of Arrangements, etc.

Hotel Castleton, St. George, Staten Island, N. Y.

I regret very much that it will be impossible for me to attend your dinner tonight. Comptroller Metz informs me that he is going and my sorrow is lightened by the knowledge that you will have in him the biggest and best part of the City government.

Bird S. Coler.

40 LAFAYETTE PLACE, NEW YORK.

October 30, 1906.

Arthur Hollick, Chairman, Committee of Arrangements,  
Staten Island Association of Arts and Sciences,  
New Brighton, S. I.

Dear Sir:—I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your invitation to be one of the guests at the dinner of the Staten Island

Association of Arts and Sciences on the evening of November twelfth, for which I beg to return thanks. I regret that in consequence of a previous engagement, it will be impossible for me to have the pleasure of being present.

Very sincerely yours,  
J. S. Billings.

THE ZOOLOGICAL PARK  
New York

November 5, 1906.

Dr. Arthur Hollick, New Brighton, N. Y.

Dear Dr. Hollick:—I have delayed replying to your kind invitation to the anniversary dinner of the Staten Island Natural Science Association in the hope that I might find it possible to accept. But I am reluctantly compelled to admit that I am yet physically unfit to go out nights and enjoy evening occasions.

By careful attention I can manage to get through my day's work, but by the time night comes I am physically and mentally exhausted and good for nothing. I have not spent an evening out since last April.

Under the circumstances I can only thank you most gratefully for your very kind and much appreciated invitation, and assure you that were I physically able I would joyously accept. It would give me great pleasure to participate in such an anniversary.

Wishing the Association long life and great prosperity, I remain

Sincerely yours,  
W. T. Hornaday.

NEW YORK BOTANICAL GARDEN,

BRONX PARK,  
NEW YORK CITY.

November 2nd, 1906.

Dr. Arthur Hollick.,  
New Brighton, N. Y.

Dear Sir:—Replying to your letter of October 25th, I accept with pleasure the invitation of the Staten Island Association of Arts and Sciences to be present at the dinner to be held on the evening of November 12th. I will speak on the subject that you suggest.

Yours truly,  
N. L. Britton.

METROPOLITAN MUSEUM OF ART,  
CENTRAL PARK,  
FIFTH AVENUE AND EIGHTY-SECOND STREET,  
OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR,  
NEW YORK.

October 30th, 1906.

Mr. Arthur Hollick,

Chairman, Committee on Arrangements,

Staten Island Association of Arts and Sciences.

Dear Sir:—I have the pleasure to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 25th instant inviting me to be one of the guests on the evening of the 12th of November.

I regret, however, that a previous engagement for that evening will prevent me from accepting your kind invitation, for which I thank your committee. I beg to remain,

Yours very faithfully,

C. Purdon Clarke.

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AMERICAN MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY,  
NEW YORK.

November 1, 1906.

My Dear Dr. Hollick:—Many thanks for yours of October 25, in which you so courteously invite me to be one of the guests at the dinner of the Staten Island Association of Arts and Sciences, to be held at the Hotel Castleton, St. George, Staten Island, on the evening of November 12, at 7 o'clock. It will give me pleasure to be present and to meet you at that time.

Very cordially yours,

H. C. Bumpus.

Dr. Arthur Hollick, New Brighton,  
Boro' of Richmond, New York.

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THE BROOKLYN INSTITUTE OF ARTS AND SCIENCES.

Founded, 1824.

Re-Incorporated, 1890.

Director, Prof. Franklin W. Hooper, M. A.

OFFICE: 502 FULTON STREET,  
BROOKLYN.

October 29th, 1906.

Dr. Arthur Hollick, New Brighton,

Borough of Richmond, New York City.

My Dear Dr. Hollick:—I am in receipt of your letter of October 25th containing the invitation of the Staten Island Association of Arts

and Sciences to be its guest at dinner at St. George, Staten Island, on the evening of the 12th of November, in commemoration of the Twenty-fifth Anniversary of the organization of the Natural Science Association of Staten Island.

I have been interested in this Association partly through yourself, and partly through friends, for several years, and I assure you that it gives me very great pleasure to accept the invitation.

I will try to say something, in response to your request, on the subject proposed in your letter.

Very sincerely yours,  
Franklin W. Hooper.

THE BROOKLYN INSTITUTE OF ARTS AND SCIENCES,

Founded, 1824. Re-Incorporated, 1860.

Director, Prof. Franklin W. Hooper, M. A.

OFFICE: 502 FULTON STREET,  
BROOKLYN.

November 8, 1906.

Dr. Arthur Hollick, New Brighton,  
Borough of Richmond; New York City.

My Dear Dr. Hollick:—I very much regret that it is going to be impossible for me to attend the dinner on Monday evening, November 12th, as I had definitely arranged to do. I regret exceedingly that I cannot be a member of your gathering on that evening to congratulate those who are present upon the work already accomplished in the interest of an institute of arts and sciences in the County of Richmond, and also to speak a word of appreciation of the plans of the Association.

Owing to the decease of a member of my family, I am compelled to cancel my engagement.

Very sincerely yours,  
Franklin W. Hooper.

New York, N. Y., Oct. 29, 1906.

Dr. Arthur Hollick;  
New Brighton, N. Y.

My Dear Dr. Hollick:—I have your favor of the 25th instant and will take pleasure in doing anything I can for the Association of Arts and Sciences, and will therefore be glad to say what I can on the occasion of the dinner on November 12th.

Anticipating pleasure in meeting you and the other members at that time, I am, with due appreciation of your request,

Truly yours,  
Walter C. Kerr.



## ADDRESSES

### ADDRESS OF WELCOME

HOWARD R. BAYNE

President of the Staten Island Association of Arts and Sciences.

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN:

It is my pleasant duty to extend to you all a most cordial greeting and welcome, and on behalf of the Association, specially to assure the ladies and gentlemen, our guests, of the gratification and honor we feel at their presence around this board.

We are here this evening to celebrate the 25th anniversary of the organization of the Natural Science Association of Staten Island. A quarter of a century closes tonight since 14 gentlemen met at the home of Mr. William T. Davis, at Tompkinsville, and formed the society which we now represent. A number of the organizers are still with us and constitute the most helpful and valuable material we have.

Many changes have occurred in our community during this long period. Our population has nearly doubled. The physical appearance of the Island has in some parts completely changed. Many, once well known and prominent among us, have been removed by death or the vicissitudes of fortune which characterize more than anything else our American life today. We have emerged from the simple village and country life with which we were altogether familiar into something with which we were unfamiliar. We have passed into the civic and social complications of the metropolis of the western hemisphere, with all its great opportunities, its high aspirations, and its world-wide sympathies. And if we have been slow to take our place in the march of progress and to claim for our community its share in the distribution of public opportunities, it has been due, not, I think, to lack of a sense of the need of improvement and advance but rather to the lack of coöperation in laying the foundation broadly and well for the intellectual and moral as well as the material welfare of our borough.

The Association we here represent tonight stands for this discreet and public spirited coöperation.

To it the community owes a debt that can never be paid, except by recognition and acknowledgement and encouragement in the years to come. Its work, quietly, unobtrusively, effectively prosecuted for a quarter of a century, has been a labor of love, which the muse of His-

tory will doubtless some day record high up on the tablets reserved for those deeds which are not to fade from the memory of man. Some one has said that he most benefits his fellow man who discovers truth. During all these long years, in loving studiousness, members of this body have been gathering and storing up the truths of nature for the knowledge and welfare of their fellow men. The catalogue of what they have accomplished may be found, to some extent at least, in the publications issued by the Association from the year 1883. These papers, serially numbered from that date, have gone forth, with their human message, to all parts of this country and to many parts of the world. Scientific bodies at home and abroad have gladly welcomed them. Libraries and institutions of learning, by their steadfast subscriptions, testify to their appreciation of the value of these publications, while frequent requests for back numbers, and a constantly growing exchange list, apprise us more and more that a prophet is not without honor save in his own country and among his own people. These publications have completed 9 volumes, and a new series is beginning with volume 1 to commemorate the reorganization of the Association on June 3rd, 1905.

Twenty-five years of study of nature on Staten Island have accumulated by insensible degrees specimens of local botany, mineralogy, geology, and zoology in great number, range, and value. In the herbarium there are about 1500 local plants. In the geological collection every feature of interest is represented. Among the specimens of local fauna, members of the Association have made quite complete collections of fresh and salt water shells, moths, butterflies, beetles, and other insects, birds' eggs, snakes and other reptiles. Local antiquities are represented by specimens of Indian life and by Revolutionary and later relics, implements of war, coins, and documents of many kinds and of varied historical interest.

It is said by those competent to judge that the museum of this Association is in certain departments probably one of the most complete and comprehensive local collections known.

It is with deep regret that I have to admit that this unique collection is without a home, and is and for years has been practically on storage in different places, unavailable to the members of the Association or to the public at large. The mass of it is stored in one of the rooms of the Staten Island Academy—thanks to the courtesy of that institution.

During all these twenty-five years we have also been gathering scientific publications by exchange, purchase, and donation, until we

have secured an extensive and most valuable library of volumes, bound and unbound, which if destroyed could not perhaps be replaced. This collection also is unavailable, because, as in the case of our museum, we have nowhere to place it for access by those wishing to use it.

This has been the situation with which the present managers of the Association have had to deal and to which they have given most serious consideration.

It had long been the wish of this body to rescue its collection and library from the dust and obscurity of mere storage and place them where they could be seen, studied, and enjoyed by the public. It was felt that in the formative period of our community this purpose could not be accomplished merely by private enterprise or by private expense; that contemplating exclusively public benefit it should be recognized as a public undertaking and aided, as similar undertakings in other boroughs, by the public purse.

This conclusion necessitated new corporate powers, to be conferred by the Legislature, which neither the Greater City, nor our Association hitherto possessed. It became necessary to "publicise" our body and to grant to the City power to lease space in the Municipal building and to provide land and money for the erection of suitable buildings for keeping and maintaining the museum and library.

These preliminary powers have been conferred under a special charter, granted unanimously by the Legislature, by an Act which promptly met the approval of the Governor and became a law May 17th, 1905.

The old corporation, by this legislative alchemy, became transfused into the new, and we stand here tonight by this happy consummation, fully empowered to be the medium of conveying to the public of the Borough of Richmond for its perpetual benefit this rich result of devoted scientific research, of a value difficult to estimate from a commercial standpoint, and, what is more to the purpose, of a value incalculable from a moral, intellectual, educative, and social standpoint.

Let it not be supposed that we do not confidently expect the City administration to do its duty in the premises. So far as we have thus gone, we have found a friendly disposition on the part of City officials, which augurs well for our plans. We have applied for space in the Municipal building, but it has not yet been determined by the Sinking Fund Commissioners whether space there necessary for our use can be spared from other public purposes having prior claim to accommodation.

But what we need, most and best of all, is a building specially designed and erected as a museum building, capable, however, of enlarge-

ment as time may require, worthy of the noble purposes to which it is devoted, and in keeping with the ideals of this great City. We may well be proud of the public institutions of Greater New York, but we should not be so content with them as to feel that nothing may be done to extend their beneficent influences to our own borough. We are entitled to appropriations for something else than the making of highways and sewers, the removal of garbage, and the establishment of handsome quarters for the imposition and collection of taxes. However essential to our welfare all such departments may be, they are not the only things we need.

No community that contents itself with facilities for mere material existence can make much progress toward a high degree of civilized life. Such facilities are enjoyed in their greatest perfection when the highest culture and best ideals obtain. Indeed they are the effect, not the cause, of civic cultivation and the best public spirit.

Let us adopt an intelligent principle of action on this subject, and then let us proclaim it and live up to it. And, in due time, we shall create a public opinion, which no official, however high, can disregard, and no difficulties, however obdurate, can withstand.

Reaching these aims, we may well begin to think that life is worth living in the Borough of Richmond and that to some appreciable extent our Association has contributed to results so admirable, so really helpful, and so well worth all the efforts we may give for them.

## THE NATURAL SCIENCE ASSOCIATION OF STATEN ISLAND

WALTER C. KERR

Ex-President of the Natural Science Association of Staten Island, 1892-99.

### LADIES AND GENTLEMEN:

The most important historical fact connected with this association is that it exists and that it is really alive. There is a fine distinction between "existing" and "living." We know that mummies exist, and we have heard of associations organized for various purposes which still retain their form and being, but so far as any one knows they contain no red blood.

The next most important historical fact is that it is better, more prosperous, and more firmly rooted than it has been at any time during the quarter century that it has lived.

Many associations have histories that taper the wrong way. They start with the enthusiasm of the few, extend to the mediocrity of the many, and then decline to the lethargy of the uninterested and uninteresting.

This association represents no lost arts. It has been a perpetuator of constant interest in the things for which it stands. It has always had a small coterie of loyal men, who through its minor ups and downs have been the embodiment of its real strength and existence in a way that cannot but excite the admiration of any one versed in what makes and unmakes such organizations.

When we remember that this little body has held together for twenty-five years today without a fixed home, with but little concrete or physical token of existence, with motives that could scarcely inspire appreciation by the people of things of which they were mostly ignorant, and amid the tremendous pressure of a busy world clamoring for attention to everything under the sun,—it is somewhat remarkable that it should have grown, prospered, and come to its quarti-centennial anniversary in the condition in which the Association appears tonight. The reason is that the real Natural Science Association existed not on paper, nor in a building, nor in any appeal for help, approval or aggrandizement, but it existed primarily in the desire, minds, and motives

of a few men who loved nature, and then in a somewhat greater number who looked with a friendly interest upon such endeavor.

During the year 1881 the desirability of such an association was discussed by several young men who occasionally tramped the Island together. A notebook was put in circulation in which any one who favored this idea was invited to write his name.

When about twenty names had been secured, a call for a meeting was issued, signed by Nathaniel L. Britton, Arthur Hollick, and William T. Davis, to be held at the residence of Mr. Davis, on Saturday evening, November 12, 1881—twenty-five years ago tonight.

*This is the piece of paper on which this call was written by Dr. Britton while crossing the bay on one of the ferryboats, which paper Mr. Davis took to the printer as copy for the notice that was issued.* This paper, therefore, more than any other token, stands for the organization of this association. It is the original document.

[The paper was here handed out and passed around for inspection.]

Fourteen responded to this call and organized the Natural Science Association of Staten Island, choosing Mr. Sanderson Smith as the first president.

During the next few months meetings were held at the rooms of the Young Men's Catholic Union and in Public School No. 3, New Brighton. In 1882 the Board of Trustees of the Village of New Brighton offered the free use of a large room in the village hall as a meeting place and museum, which was thus occupied for some fourteen years.

In 1896 the Staten Island Academy generously tendered the Association the use of its facilities, and a room was set aside to which the library and museum were transferred. Meetings were then held, sometimes at the Academy, but more often at the residence of various members, as had become the custom since 1892.

During the first four or five years the membership gradually increased, and the meetings were well attended. The interest then somewhat waned until, in 1892, the membership reached the low water mark of thirty-six and the attendance at meetings was very meagre.

About that time it was my pleasure, as a new resident, to learn of the existence of the Association, and I shortly became a member. The first meeting that I attended is well impressed upon my memory. It was on May 14, 1892, the only other member present being the secretary, Arthur Hollick.

Various conditions, which of themselves were of little importance, had operated to cause all or many of the meetings to be poorly attended. In some respects it was perhaps a fortunate accident that at my

first meeting the attendance was so small as to create what might have been to some an adverse influence, whereas under all the circumstances the result was quite the opposite. It was my pleasure to shortly learn the real quality of the Association and with others to perceive its opportunity. Several of us put our heads together to enable the best influences at our command to bring forth the most good. That started, as it were, a new era but no new motive. As president for the succeeding seven years, I followed the affairs of the Association closely, and when the pressure of my many cares required that some be dropped, the active administration was continued by Lester W. Clark and then by Howard R. Bayne, with the result that the membership advanced from 36 in 1892 to 129 in 1906.

Although such an institution deals little with finance, it is admittedly prudent for it to be conveniently solvent. During these twenty-five years, with a limited membership and with dues of only \$3 per annum, this association has published its *Proceedings* monthly without having missed an issue; it has published several pamphlets of considerable size, which have been freely distributed to members and sold to others; it has bound its books, bought cases for its collections, and provided itself with all facilities really needed, and has shown each year a balance which, starting from \$28 in 1883, has grown at an almost uniform rate to \$624 in October, 1906, and, as it never has owed anything, this is about the most continuous record of solvency that I have ever known.

The first number of the *Proceedings* was issued in November, 1883. This publication soon began to attract attention in scientific circles, thus bringing requests for exchange of publications, and by gradual extensions these exchanges came to be made with societies in various parts of the world. Scientific and historical societies, public museums and libraries, and other institutions were eager to exchange their extensive works, often beautiful volumes, for our meagre leaflets dealing with one small locality, thus building up for us a library which has to a considerable extent taxed the resources of the Association for care and maintenance. The number of titles on our exchange list is now about eighty, and this number could be doubled at once if provision could be made to take care of the books thus secured in exchange.

If there is any one thing which characterizes the quality of the men and minds that have made this little institution what it is, it is the demand that has existed for its meagre and often poorly printed pages, sometimes only one page a month and seldom more than four, by these important societies, who were willing to give in exchange the large and often handsomely illustrated volumes previously mentioned. Fortun-

ately, true men of science do not measure by volume, weight, pages, nor attractiveness of appearance, but by the real matter contained.

This little association, however humble its publications, has continually contributed new matter, new facts, new finds, and truly scientific descriptions. The *Proceedings* have not been replete with the paraphrasing of old knowledge. It has not been mere compilation of things compiled before, and dry as such reading may be to some, the fact that it is genuine must be interesting to many.

Gradually there has been accumulated a museum of local fauna and flora, and it is believed to be as complete in its scope as may be found in any locality. Few sections have been so thoroughly explored by men well versed in various branches of science as Staten Island. The material collected has been named and classified, until the natural history and antiquities of the Island are splendidly represented.

In some respects it is an advantage to do such work within an insular locality. Its boundaries are defined. It may have been of great assistance to this association to have so small a territory in which to work. This has led to a thoroughness that might otherwise have been dissipated by attempting too much on broad areas. Some may think that thoroughness may have removed opportunity for future work, and that the rapid increase in settlement will so destroy all traces of primitive nature as to make the field of this association chiefly an oasis that once was. That the tendency is in this direction cannot be doubted, but it takes a long time to destroy nature, sad as it may be that so much is destroyed.

The so-called march of progress seems unnecessarily ruthless, but it is the way of civilized man to destroy everything first and then see what he can do to restore it in some artificial way. The same characteristic of mind that will change the name of Blazing Star to Linoleumville will cut down the forest and upon its ruins build a park with concrete walks.

However, we must take this little area, like the whole world, as we find it and move along with it. Some day this association will have no field in which to work, and then it will be a museum and a library, and its field activity will be a tradition. This time is so far ahead, however, that we can doubtless hold our fiftieth anniversary with the *Proceedings* still reporting finds on the north shore and the south, from the bottoms of the ponds and the tops of the trees—so we will not worry regarding a posterity that has not yet helped or hurt us much.

With the march of progress and the invasion of our repose by municipal affairs, it seems appropriate to make some changes in name and

custom, even if not in the real character of the organization. It has therefore within the past year become the Staten Island Association of Arts and Sciences. This is only a change of name. We have known of other things very dear to us that changed their names, but we loved them none the less. There is no suggestion of anything effeminate in this mere change of name. This organization now begins to take on the complexion of the arts as well as the sciences, which seems to be a wholesome infection resulting from municipal contact. It will not lessen our powers and it may bring some desirable support. Our happiness by any other name would seem as complete, and so it is not of the name, nor of this minor change that we think when we meet tonight to realize that we are brought together by an instinct of twenty-five years in the search for knowledge of what nature and history brought to the locality in which it is our good fortune to live.

One does not like to single out the ones from the many in an association where all are equal and where rank and caste are unknown, but it would seem inappropriate to pass this milestone in our history without mentioning a few of the men who have so constantly and faithfully performed the real work with the real interest which made this association what it is.

First in the inception of the Association, ever constant in its support, and still active in its welfare, are Arthur Hollick, William T. Davis, and Nathaniel L. Britton, each of whom has made a mark in science deeper than our local interests can claim.

Dr. Britton is well known as one of the most active and advanced of botanists, standing in the front rank of his profession; who found everything on Staten Island that the rest of us have not since found, and regarding whom we have but one regret, which is that he has had to largely leave us for the broader field of the Botanical Garden of the Bronx; yet he keeps his picturesque, ever quaint, summer home by the sea at New Dorp.

Dr. Hollick has likewise wandered northward to the bowers of the Bronx by way of Columbia University, yet with no relinquishing of his activity in the Staten Island field. He has been a large contributor and the patient and ever faithful secretary of the Association, who has done what perhaps no one else could or would have done to preserve the integrity of our *Proceedings* under all circumstances for a quarter of a century, and whose scientific writings are too well known elsewhere to require special reference to his large contributions to our pages.

Then "Willie" Davis, whom every one knows as a naturalist—the born naturalist of Staten Island—than whom there never has been and

probably never will be a better all-around observer, discoverer, or describer of things new, rare and interesting.

Among the several founders, there was especially Dr. Carroll, a man of scientific instinct and inspiration who, though not a field worker in the ordinary sense, helped furnish the spirit which founded this institution in the right way.

Then Charles W. Leng, with his beetles, thousands of them, so many that he does not know how many he has; an authority on many orders, a man to whom government officials refer, and to whom they will lend almost anything in the national collection.

Thomas Craig with his microscope, who has long since left us; Gratacap; with a wise eye for geology; Chapin with his birds; Dr. Dowell in botany; Morris and Delavan in local history; and Pepper and Skinner in archeological research; all have brought forth much, while a dozen others have contributed their quota to the active work which has made the Association more than a name. Each in his own way has done something and taken a pleasure in the doing. It is withal a modest effort, but in the aggregate it has given the Association not only a creditable place among its larger fellows, but it has frequently been referred to at various times and in many places as an ideal natural science association, whose methods were worthy of copy.

When I was president, I was several times asked how we held together and how we could keep up the work, especially with what others in their greater localities regarded as our limited opportunities. The answer then, as now, was that this association was the real thing. It was doing serious work of quality and cared not for quantity. Everything was done for the love of it, and men tramped fields and found and discussed things in a true scientific spirit; we were in pleasant social relationship and together played with what was really more than play. This is the right spirit. Cold stones and often living things are not interesting except as they appeal to something within us that becomes interesting. The contemplation of science is a personal attribute, which must lie within those who delve in it, and it is only when it comes out of them and centers about that with which they are in contact that it becomes a real moving thing which creates and perpetuates interest. It is this which gives warrant for the organization whose continuance and prosperity we celebrate tonight.

If time permitted, I would like to tell of many things we have found on this Island, but that leads to a story too long. It may, however, be of passing interest to remark that we have a most exceptional collection of drift fossils, which have a distinct bearing upon the know-

ledge of glacial conditions, and which are now regarded as valuable and may in time become exceedingly valuable in geological records.

We have found new plants and insects that never before were found, not merely on Staten Island, but anywhere in the world. We have found some causes for various scientific phenomena, which are of interest and may be valuable; and we have preserved the flora and fauna of this locality in such a manner as will possess the greatest interest when the hand of civilization has done her work by sweeping from the face of this region all that nature intended it to hold.

Many have an impression that the making of such collections is merely a gratification of curiosity—a desire to collect and see things stand in cases. This is a very poor comprehension of what such collections stand for. Long years hence, centuries, perhaps tens of centuries, there will be races of which we have never heard, who will place a proper value upon the diligence and care which a few men gave to the proper preservation of the history of the rocks, the woods and the fields, and from these records, made in material and in print, deductions will be drawn that will be of the greatest value and most intense interest to those who are called upon to solve problems in which all these things are testimony, sometimes proof.

It is therefore with great pleasure that I speak for this Association of Arts and Sciences, evolved from the old Natural Science Association; to commend to your best consideration and support the perpetuation of this activity throughout the many years during which its opportunity can yet be effective.

When all of the field work shall have been done, it will remain only to preserve and guard the records. There is room for at least another twenty-five years of endeavor, and I take pride in delivering to those who follow, the keeping of the records, the motives, and the sentiment of the past.



## LOCAL SCIENTIFIC SOCIETIES: THEIR INFLUENCE AND VALUE

DR. NATHANIEL L. BRITTON

Director of the New York Botanical Garden

Ex-President of the Natural Science Association of Staten Island, 1889-91

### LADIES AND GENTLEMEN:

Science has become predominant in human life. All the advances that have been made in civilization are directly or indirectly due to scientific investigation and discovery. Wireless telegraphy; the extraordinary properties of radium; the control of yellow fever and malaria by the demonstration of the fact that these diseases are transmitted from one person to another by certain species of mosquitoes, and the diminution of the number of mosquitoes by sanitary drainage and otherwise; the manufacture of aniline dyes from the waste products of the distillation of coal; the nitrogen-fixing power of certain bacteria and other lowly organized plants by means of which the soil is enriched in plant food; the recognition of the fact that many diseases of both plants and animals are caused by the growth of fungi, bacteria, and other organisms within their tissues or organs; and the conclusion that the plants and animals now living on the earth are all descended from extinct ancestors that lived in previous geological epochs; are a few of the noteworthy and familiar examples of such advances. A multitude of other results, more or less comprehensive, have also been reached and are of enormous importance to mankind. Additional facts of great value are being wrested from nature continually. Any new facts, even such as may seem trivial, may be important, and it is only to the progress of scientific research that we can look for a still higher civilization. This increase in knowledge is due almost entirely to the work of members of scientific societies.

The enormous number of facts and considerations that scientific investigation has brought to the attention of civilized man, has forced a division of knowledge, no one person being able to grasp the whole range of subjects except in a general or superficial manner. Specialization has thus become necessary, and students have been developed along many different lines of thought. This in its turn has required organization, in order that groups of students be formed who by mutual intercourse may consider the various phases of knowledge in their re-

lation to each other. Societies are therefore necessary for efficient work.

Local scientific societies have long been recognized as important factors in public education, serving as permanent repositories of information for public use and as distributors of such information. The principal methods by means of which they accomplish these valuable functions may properly claim our attention.

1. MUSEUMS AND OTHER COLLECTIONS. Inasmuch as the work of local scientific societies relates mainly to natural objects, collections of such objects are indispensable for reference and for record. Portions of these collections are available for the direct information of the public by being placed on view, grouped so as to illustrate facts and theories, and properly labeled; such portions of the collections form the museum. The educational value of museums is coming to be more and more recognized all over the world, so much so indeed that special associations formed for the purpose of considering this feature alone now exist in England, on the continent of Europe, and in the United States. Museums supplement the work of schools, colleges, and universities, and are regarded by many students and teachers as equal in educational value to any one of these three. Other portions of the collections, consisting of specimens too small, too valuable, or too fragile for display, or that would be damaged by exposure to the light, must necessarily be preserved in closed cases, and only such persons as can use them to advantage are given access to them. These reference collections are often of greater scientific value than the museum.

2. LIBRARIES. The books and pamphlets accumulated by local scientific societies are largely such as are unlikely to be found in many other libraries, being naturally selected with special reference to their immediate work. Such libraries come therefore to contain many documents not readily accessible elsewhere, inasmuch as they are largely derived from exchanges with other similar societies in various parts of the world, and in this way valuable information is made available to the community.

3. PUBLICATIONS. The facts observed and conclusions reached by members of societies are supplied to the public by published transactions, proceedings, or under other titles, and they form a very important part of our literature, there being a large number of such societies and many of them publish voluminously. The facts recorded in these publications are not by any means restricted to the immediate recipients of the documents, inasmuch as many of them are copied into journals or newspapers and are cited by other students in various other publications. The *Proceedings of the Natural Science Association of*

*Staten Island*, which have now been published continuously over a period of about twenty-five years, have been cited and quoted in other works all over the world, and are on file in many of the large public libraries.

4. MEETINGS AND LECTURES. Meetings provide opportunity for the interchange of ideas among the members and their immediate friends, for the discussion of hypotheses and theories, and for the presentation of new facts and discoveries for record in the archives or in publications. Lectures directly reach the public in general and distribute information in an attractive manner, performing an important educational function for the community.

Some of these societies have existed for many years and their influence has been great, but most of them had small beginnings; some have obtained recognition and partial support from cities and towns, while the amount of money privately contributed for their work, in the form of membership dues, gifts and bequests, is collectively very large.

Local scientific societies are able to carry out comprehensive studies of natural phenomena over limited areas, thus accumulating valuable series of facts and observations which societies of broader scope find impossible. Accurate and complete information concerning the natural objects and features of small geographical areas is very important to local communities and often has wider interest or general scientific significance, and the records of natural phenomena that ultimately become obliterated by the building up of towns and villages are very desirable to preserve by descriptions, photographs, drawings or specimens. Our association has always given close attention to this work, and the natural history of Staten Island is perhaps as thoroughly and accurately known as that of any other equal area in the United States, although much yet remains to be done.

The existence of a local society in a community provides the possibility of obtaining data relative to natural objects by reason of some of its members being always available for observing facts that might otherwise be lost to science. In our experience there have been repeated instances of such incidents, one very recent one having already thrown a flood of light on certain features of the character of the vegetation which formed the forests about New York City during the Cretaceous period in geologic time.

The work of such societies supplies the very best training for young people in natural science, their interest being aroused and maintained as in no other way. Nature study is coming to be more and more recognized as an important factor in public education and has already

been made a part of the curriculum of our public schools, where its influence on the children is known to be very good. A relationship between the nature study of the schools and the work of scientific societies and institutions is very desirable to foster and is capable of great development. The study and consideration of natural objects tends toward honesty of thought, purpose, and action, and toward exactness of observation and conclusion.

Local scientific societies are also valuable to the community as agents of general culture, and as an indication to the people that there are things beyond the ordinary affairs of life which may be profitably considered.

## THE CITY AND ITS PUBLIC MUSEUMS: WHAT THE CITY SHOULD DO FOR STATEN ISLAND

HON. HERMAN A. METZ  
Comptroller of the City of New York

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN:

I am asked to speak to you of the museums of New York and their relations to the City and of the City's duty to them, and especially what the City should do for Staten Island in this connection; but as comptroller of the City I prefer to call your attention to what the City has already done for its museums and leave you to infer what it ought to do for Staten Island.

These museums have recently come to my notice in considering, as a member of the Board of Estimate, the budget for 1907, when they requested for maintenance for next year \$840,100.99 as against \$670,000 appropriated for the purpose for 1906. The names of these institutions, with the appropriations for their maintenance for 1906 and their requests for 1907, are as follows:

	Appropriated 1906	Requests 1907	Increase over 1906
Brooklyn Institute of Arts and Sciences . . . . .	\$ 80,000.00	\$ 95,000.00	\$ 15,000.00
American Museum of Natural History . . . . .	175,000.00	205,650.00	30,650.00
Metropolitan Museum of Art . . . . .	145,000.00	242,718.99	97,718.99
New York Zoological Park . . . . .	145,000.00	154,572.00	9,572.00
New York Zoological Society for Aquarium . . . . .	45,000.00	45,000.00	—
New York Botanical Garden . . . . .	80,000.00	97,160.00	17,160.00
	<u>\$670,000.00</u>	<u>\$840,100.99</u>	<u>\$170,100.99</u>

The interest on the corporate stock issued for the construction of buildings and other betterments in their behalf is between three hundred and fifty and four hundred thousand dollars annually, which added to maintenance appropriations of about \$800,000 makes the goodly sum of about one million two hundred thousand dollars contributed by the tax-payers annually for this purpose.

It is proper to mention the other side of this matter, which is the

contributions by the friends of the museums for their development, which will appear so far as the amount of money they receive from other sources than the city for the year 1905, and their expenditures therefrom, as shown by the following figures:

	Receipts 1905	Expenditures 1905
Brooklyn Institute of Arts and Sciences	\$129,651.89	\$98,595.45
American Museum of Natural History	94,650.00	90,019.23
Metropolitan Museum of Art	61,324.23	255,564.30
New York Zoological Park:		
Contributions	27,965.30	
Rents and Privileges	<u>14,816.36</u>	
	42,781.66	40,962.23
New York Botanical Garden	34,325.15	33,164.32

And in addition they receive many valuable donations of works of art and other collections to which the public at reasonable times have access.

The arts and sciences in this region seem to have first found their home in Brooklyn, for as early as 1823 some good citizens of that town organized the Brooklyn Apprentices Library Association, which was afterwards changed in name to the Brooklyn Institute of Arts and Sciences, and on the 4th of July, 1825, General Lafayette laid the corner stone of its first building at the junction of Henry and Cranberry streets. In 1835 this institution had outgrown its original quarters, and the City of Brooklyn was prevailed upon to purchase its property and the Institute moved to a new building on Washington Street, then the residential center of the young City of Brooklyn. For fifty years thereafter this institution did noble work in Brooklyn and endeared itself to every lover of science, art, and literature, and during that entire time was sustained through the generosity of its individual patrons. In 1892 the city again took its building, which stood in the way of the Brooklyn Bridge, and leased to the Institute its present site near Prospect Park, expending \$50,000 on the grounds and \$335,500 for the building and equipment. In 1895-6 the legislature authorized the expenditure of \$600,000 for the continuance of the work on the museum buildings and two years later authorized the expenditure of \$10,000 for the care and maintenance of the museum for the year 1897, which Brooklyn appropriated accordingly.

In the old City of New York, now the Borough of Manhattan, for

Nearly half a century after Brooklyn started its museum, the arts and sciences would seem to have been confined to a few wealthy individuals who kept collections in their homes, for it was not until 1870, 47 years after Brooklyn started its collections, that the Museum of Natural History was incorporated.

While New York was slow in starting, it made up for lost time by proceeding to business forthwith, and in 1871 the legislature authorized the Commissioner of the Department of Parks to erect buildings for the Museums of Art and Natural History at an aggregate cost, the interest upon which should not exceed \$35,000 for each of said buildings.

Money was six per cent. at the time, and although the plans were elaborate, the legislature and the city fathers no doubt thought that if these gentlemen expected to carry them out some lover of art must go down in his pockets to finish them, but the lovers of art at that time must have been as expert in finance as the most conspicuous of our art connoisseurs of today, for when they agreed to take the museum bonds for two per cent. the town was up against a stock issue of \$3,500,000. And they did not stop at that. The legislature was many times invoked to help the good work at the expense of the City, so that up to date there has been expended for the building and equipment of the American Museum of Natural History, \$4,462,429.86, and for like purposes for the Metropolitan Museum of Art, \$4,559,628.29, or a total of \$9,022,058.15. Of the stock issued for this purpose \$958,000 has been redeemed, and the balance of \$8,064,058.15 is outstanding, on which the city is paying interest averaging 3%, in round figures \$240,000 annually, or \$120,000 annually for each institution.

The legislature of 1873 passed an act providing that out of the appropriation for the maintenance of parks in New York there should be appropriated for the maintenance of museums \$50,000 annually. This was followed by various other acts increasing the annual appropriation from time to time, and appropriations were made accordingly up to the time of consolidation.

With consolidation came the consideration of the amount to be appropriated for all the museums, based on the custom existing in the several boroughs before consolidation, and the embodying in the charter of annual appropriations not exceeding \$250,000 for all three of them, which has since been raised by the legislature to \$400,000 for the Museums of Art and Natural History and \$95,000 for the Brooklyn Institute of Arts and Sciences.

The following are the annual appropriations since consolidation, allowed in the budget of the Park Department by the Board of Estimate

**and Apportionment for the maintenance of these institutions:**

	Museums of Natural History and Art	Brooklyn Inst. of Arts and Sciences
1898	\$190,000.00	\$20,000.00
1899	190,000.00	46,875.00
1900	215,000.00	46,875.00
1901	225,000.00	55,000.00
1902	285,000.00	60,000.00
1903	310,000.00	70,000.00
1904	310,000.00	70,000.00
1905	310,000.00	75,000.00
1906	320,000.00	80,000.00
1907	320,000.00	95,000.00
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	\$2,675,000.00	\$618,750.00

or a total for maintenance of the three institutions since consolidation of \$3,293,750.00

In the same category are the New York Zoological Park and the New York Botanical Garden in the Bronx and the Aquarium at the Battery.

The New York Zoological Park is maintained on an agreement between the New York Zoological Society and the City, which provides that the City shall furnish "adequate maintenance." By a similar agreement between the same parties, provision is made for appropriation annually of "not less than \$45,000" for the maintenance of the Aquarium.

The New York Botanical Garden is maintained by the City, pursuant to an act of the Legislature and an agreement with the New York Botanical Society.

These two latter institutions have jurisdiction over part of Bronx Park, and since consolidation, in addition to \$125,000 theretofore expended, the City has made the following contributions for improvements to them:

Botanical Garden . . . . .	\$1,118,135.74
Zoological Park . . . . .	1,212,857.21
The land cost of Bronx Park was . . . . .	<u>1,585,459.64</u>
	<hr/>
	\$3,916,452.59
Adding amount of . . . . .	125,000.00
	<hr/>
Makes a total of . . . . .	\$4,041,452.59

The City has in addition, since consolidation, made the following annual budget appropriations for the maintenance of the Botanical Garden and the Zoological Park :

	Zoological Park	Botanical Garden
1898	\$ 62,000.00	—
1899	30,000.00	\$ 30,000.00
1900	40,000.00	40,000.00
1901	65,000.00	55,000.00
1902	85,000.00	65,000.00
1903	104,965.00	70,000.00
1904	104,965.00	70,000.00
1905	134,965.00	70,000.00
1906	144,965.00	80,000.00
1907	144,965.00	80,000.00
	<hr/> \$916,825.00	<hr/> \$560,000.00

All of these institutions are private corporations controlled by boards of trustees, who administer them according to their own fancy, making the contracts for supplies and fixing the salaries, with the same generosity that characterizes their devotion to the arts, with this single exception, that, in this instance, the City pays the bills. Over eighty per cent of their maintenance is salaries. The City has no voice in the fixing of these salaries, and the employees are not selected from the civil lists made up after examinations in which all the citizens of New York are invited to participate, and owing to the facts that the City makes its contributions to them as it does to the hospitals, they claim exemption from the labor laws of the State applicable to the City and those contracting with it, and I am informed that one of the corporation counsels some years ago advised the City to this effect.

You can form an idea of where we are drifting under these circumstances by a glance at the salaries paid by the City to its Park Commissioners, under whose jurisdiction these museums are, and those paid by the City at the instance of the trustees of these institutions to the directors of the museums :

The salary, Park Commissioner, Manhattan and Richmond	\$ 5,000
The salary, Director American Museum of Natural History	10,000
The salary, Director American Museum of Art	10,000
The salary, Director Aquarium	4,000
The salary, Park Commissioner The Bronx	5,000
The salary, Director Zoological Park	8,000
The salary, Director Botanical Garden.	6,000
The salary, Park Commissioner, Brooklyn	5,000
The salary, Director Brooklyn Inst. of Arts and Sciences (in part)	2,500

The City's relation to these museums originated with the promoters of the museums, operating through the legislature. And while the City has never established any definite policy towards them it has complacently accepted the suggestions of the legislature and the friends of the

museums to such an extent that its obligation for 1907 in their behalf exceed the cost of maintaining Central Park and all the other parks and playgrounds in the boroughs of Manhattan and Richmond; it exceeds the cost of maintaining Prospect Park and the 44 other parks in the boroughs of Brooklyn and Queens, and it exceeds the cost of maintaining the magnificent park and playground system of over four thousand acres in the Borough of The Bronx.

What I have said may invite criticism although it is not so intended. It is given merely as a statement of existing relations which I believe it my duty as a public official to impart to my fellow citizens who have to pay the bills.

I think we will all agree that New York has been generous to her museums, and I have up to date never heard a complaint against this generosity.

As to the duty of the City to those institutions I have this to say. In the wisdom of the charter-makers they included them as a feature of the park development of the City. While their educational features might entitle them to a higher place in the consideration of the City authorities, which after all should only reflect public sentiment, under existing conditions, like the treatment of the parks themselves, as far as City expenditures are concerned, they should be curtailed until the necessities of the Health and Street Cleaning Departments are met; until every child in the City is provided with seating room in our public schools; until the Police and Fire Departments are amply provided to protect human life and property; and until we have put well under way a system of rapid transit communication, so necessary to every part of our great City.

I do not mean that the museums should be crippled in aid of these ends, but that they should be subordinated to them, and I can conceive of no more patriotic service that the promoters of such institutions having relation to the City can render the community, than by cooperating with the Board of Estimate in this behalf, by a reduction of expenses now, until the paramount necessities of our City are safely provided for.

New York has been generous in a thousand different fields of human endeavor. We contribute more in proportion for all the things that go to make up a great cosmopolitan city than any other community on the face of the globe, and you can rest assured she will at all times contribute her share to the cultivation of the arts and bringing home to her people the elevating sentiments which at all times abide in such surroundings.

#### NOTE.

The title of the address which Mr. Franklin W. Hooper, Director of the Brooklyn Institute of Arts and Sciences, had expected to deliver, was "Popular Interest in the Arts and Sciences: How it May be Encouraged and Sustained."

In the absence of Mr. Hooper, by reason of a death in his family, his place on the list of speakers was kindly filled, without previous notice or preparation, by Dr. Hermon C. Bumpus, Director of the American Museum of Natural History. No record of this address was secured.

## RESOLUTION

ADOPTED BY THE ASSOCIATION, NOVEMBER 17, 1906.

*"Resolved:* that the Committee of Arrangements for the Twenty-fifth Anniversary Dinner, acting in conjunction with the Publication Committee, be directed to prepare and have printed an edition of 1,000 copies of a special memorial number of the Proceedings, to contain the addresses delivered at the dinner, together with such other facts in connection with the occasion as they may consider desirable."

[Abstract from the minutes of the meeting of the Association, held on Saturday, November 17, 1906].

## COMMITTEE OF ARRANGEMENTS

ARTHUR HOLICK, *Chairman*

Howard Randolph Bayne	William Hinman Mitchell
Daniel Delehanty	John Blake Hillyer
Darwin Long Bardwell	

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